

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-20 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to define the invention more clearly. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended back into dependent form. Claims 8 and 12 have been amended into independent form.

The Applicant's and the Assignee are pleased to note that claims 16-20 have been allowed. The Applicant's and the Assignee also are pleased to note that claims 8-10 and 12-15 were identified as being directed to patentable subject matter.

Claims 1-7 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,262,088 to West. The Examiner identified elements of the West reference that were considered by the Examiner to correspond to elements that existed in the rejected claims prior to this amendment.

The application explains very clearly that efforts are being made to reduce the sizes of the electrical components, including grounding wires. A grounding terminal must be crimped into secure connection with a grounding wire. The crimping arms of the terminal must be crimped a greater amount to engage a smaller grounding wire. As a result, the crimping operation is more difficult. Crimping can be facilitated if the grounding terminal is made of a thinner material that is easier to crimp. However, a thinner grounding terminal would not provide the necessary structural support on the main body and in the coupling between the main body and the wire connection portion.

Amended claim 1 defines a grounding terminal that addresses these problems. In particular, the grounding terminal of amended claim 1 has a first panel with a bolt hole formed therethrough. A coupling extends from an outer peripheral edge

of the first panel. A wire connecting portion extends from an extending end of the coupling and “is configured for crimped connection with a wire”. The grounding terminal of amended claim 1 further includes “a second panel joined unitarily to the first panel along a fold line.” The second panel is “folded into substantially face-to-face relationship with the first panel” to define a main body. The second panel has a bolt hole substantially registered with the bolt hole of the first panel. A reinforcing plate extends “unitarily from the second panel” and is disposed in “substantially face-to-face engagement with the coupling.” The grounding terminal further includes “at least one fastener folded from the coupling and into engagement with a surface of the reinforcing plate facing away from the coupling.” The coupling, the reinforcing plate and the fastener ensure that the main body and the coupling will have sufficient strength. However, the wire connection portion extends from extending end of the coupling, and hence does not have the double thickness configuration of the main body and the reinforced coupling. Thus, “the reinforcing plate reinforces the coupling without impeding crimping of the wire connection portion into connection with a wire.”

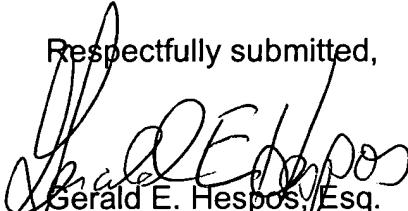
The West reference shows a terminal that is folded so that the opposite folded portions are completely coextensive with one another. The West patent has no suggestion of a terminal fitting where a reinforcing plate does not overlie a wire connection portion so that the terminal fitting has sufficient strength where needed while still permitting easy crimping. As a result, it is submitted that amended claim 1 and its dependent claim 2-7 and 11 are patentable over West.

Allowable claim 8 has been rewritten as an independent claim. Hence, amended claim 8 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 9 and 10 depend from allowable claim 8 and hence should be allowed as well.

Allowable claim 12 has been rewritten as an independent claim and hence is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 13-15 depend from allowable claim 12, and hence should be allowed as well.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter, and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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